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## These Soviet Moves Concern the U. S.

Behind the scenes the U.S.S.R. is demonstrating again how beautifully it plays both sides of the street. Unrevealed, Iran is the current proof—likewise proving the truism that the Communists never do anything openly that they can achieve by stealth.



The Kremlin proceeds like a good general moves on the battlefield, taking one pivotal position to dominate the next pivotal position. And immense Iran is a vital pawn in the Soviet's Mediterranean penetration.

Britain's influence in maintaining stability in the Middle East has all but vanished. The British have abandoned states and rulers that they established and supported. The expanded Soviet Mediterranean fleet has turned what had long been a British lake into a potential focal point for nuclear confrontation. We have heard much about this. But the erosion of the Mideast situation and the subversion of existing regimes in oil-rich Arab countries is the current intent.

**THIS IS NOT VISIONARY.** The Arab governments are shot through with individuals whose real loyalties are to dissident factors. And most Arabs are willing to pay high for what they call "akhad taro" — their revenge.

Iran is the bitter foe of Iraq. That nervous country, more than twice the size of Utah, stands beyond Iran in the sequence of continuous pivotal places to be dominated in changing the geopolitical balance in the vital European-Mideast area.

The Kremlin's subversives are at work in Baghdad, Iraq's capital, burrowing everywhere like fiddler crabs busy at their hidden business in the sand. And from what I myself have seen of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr, he is about as reliable as a skid-row alcoholic.

Our Central Intelligence Agency has reported to Secretary of State William P. Rogers that the Soviet subversion results have so frightened President al-Bakr that he has secretly agreed to place an estimated 12,000 troops in Jordan and another 6,000 in Syria as part of the general Kremlin-supported confrontation with Israel. Further, he has accepted new oil development loans from the U.S.S.R. Meanwhile, Iraq has publicly signed a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.

"INSHALLAH" (God willing) is the key word and philosophy in the Arab world and this was President al-Bakr's utterly unsatisfactory answer to these actions, reports the CIA to Secretary Rogers.

Thus the pro-American Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, is caught anew in the Soviet nutcracker.

The worried Shah's country is larger than Alaska. In fact, it is nearly as large as all America east of the Mississippi. Iran, derived from Aryan and long referred to as Persia, borders on the U.S.S.R., Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey as well as Iraq.

Its Soviet border is more than 1,000 miles long. The Trans-Iranian railroad has 4,100 bridges and 54 miles of tunnels. These mean easy crippling by an enemy. Its air-ports at the capital, Teheran, and at Isfahan, Shiraz and Abadan are totally vulnerable.

IRAN IS the world's fourth largest oil producer and the Soviet could sniff out in a twinkling Iran's four main ports and its new \$92 million Kharg Island oil-loading station on the Persian Gulf. The Soviet fleet is moving into the vacuum created by the British Navy's departure from the Persian Gulf and this will give the U.S.S.R. a firm hand on the area's oil faucet.

As a result, the Kremlin has tucked under its belt a contract to build near Isfahan Iran's first steel mill. The government's Iran National Oil Company has made a \$40 million contract with Techno-Export, a Soviet firm, to develop and exploit an oil field in southern Iran. The Shah has authorized the purchase of Soviet aircraft, military equipment, etc.

All this is highly relevant to our future. The Kremlin's current behind-the-scenes pressure on the Shah of Iran is the frontal push against a Soviet Mediterranean strategy dedicated to a military-political outflanking of NATO and all of Western Europe.